

# Gale wants answers

Says Dems  
meeting was  
inappropriate

By AARON  
ALDRIDGE  
Staff Writer

Harry Gale, a former chair of the Sullivan County Republicans and candidate for state representative, believes the recent behavior by delegates at the county convention may constitute a misuse and abuse of power.

"This is not new behavior on the part of the delegation," Gale said Wednesday.

During the June 30 convention, the delegation failed to pass a budget following a meeting in the hallway by the 11 Democrats on the 13-member delegation in what chair Peter Franklin, D-Newport, said was a caucus.

Beverly Rodeschin, R-Newport, said she called for a short break at the meeting and not a caucus when the Democrats held the meeting in the hallway.

"I've never experienced the delegation doing this before and I've been around for a long time," Rodeschin said. "What Peter Franklin did was not fair to the public. The public has a right to be upset."

Gale, a Sunapee resident, said the meeting may or may have not been legal, but believes it was inappropriate.

"I strongly believe the

## GALE FROM PAGE A1

behavior may constitute a misuse and abuse of power," Gale said. "It is an intrusion of the duties and responsibilities of the county commissioners."

Franklin was contacted and had no comment.

Gale said he has spoken with several people including attorneys and elected and government officials regarding the behavior of the delegation.

He said he is looking for the answers to three questions. First, is the delegation misusing and abusing its power, second, is the delegation usurping the executive power of the commission, and finally, was the caucus in violation of the right to know law.

"When we know those answers, I think appropriate

actions need to be taken," Gale said. "I intend to keep working on this and keep this on the front burner."

Gale said he would like legal reviews of his three questions and believes the Department of Revenue Administration should be involved.

"It is important the DRA be involved in an investigation," Gale said. "And maybe go further and speak with the association of counties."

The county posted a \$2.5 million deficit for fiscal 2007 and is expected to have up to an additional \$500,000 deficit for fiscal 2008, which ended June 30.

"I would like to put together a plan to fix this problem,"

Gale said. "We have an obligation as citizens and taxpayers to figure out a way, however difficult it may be."

Gale said he would also like to see an end to partisan politics within the county and a return to open government.

"Good government is not Democrat or Republican," Gale said. "Good government is good government and people know it when they see it."

The delegation is scheduled to meet at 5 p.m., July 8, at the commissioner's office in Newport to continue to discuss passing a budget for the current fiscal year.

*Aaron Aldridge can be reached at (800) 545-0347 ext. 139, or by e-mail at [aaldridge@eagletimes.com](mailto:aaldridge@eagletimes.com).*

EAGLE TIMES

THURSDAY  
JULY 3, 2008